

## **The Harold S. Gilman Museum**

The Committee is appointed by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Alton to serve a three-year term and over see the every day administration of the Museum.

2004 has been a year of introspection for the 5-member committee of the Harold S. Gilman Museum. The past 5 years have seen an ambitious plan to update the 35-year-old facility come to fruition. In addition the Committee has sought to identify the best practices of Museum management and incorporate them into a bold new strategic plan. Under the advise of our consultant, Florence Davis, the committee plans to further explore the Museum's role as educators and has begun to develop a plan to expand access to the Museum's unique archival collection to researchers, genealogists and historians.

A lecture entitled "*An Evolution of Clock Dials; A Reflection of Society*", the exploration of the dynamic between culture and the measurement of time by conservator and collector Don Irving began the Museum's year. Two clocks from the Museum's collection; The London Tall Case Clock and The Howard and Davis lighthouse clock were conserved by Mr. Irving 2003.

In April Lori Plichta of the Amherst Button Club helped us explore the world of Buttons from common underwear buttons to 18<sup>th</sup> century military buttons and the grand fashion statements of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Members of both the Amherst and Amoskeag Button Clubs have spend countless hours here at the Museum cleaning and mounting the thousands of buttons that Pearl Gilman collected over her life time. The buttons have been mounted on archival quality cards and each has been identified. The Museum will begin the task of photographing the cards and entering the photos and information into the Museum's database, Past Perfect.

Traditionally the Museum has held an open house Memorial Day as the Community gathers to honor its fallen soldiers and surviving veterans. On June 3 The Charles W. Canney Camp #5 The Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War presented "*A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier*". The public had an opportunity to meet three Civil War Soldiers portrayed by members of the Canney Camp.

In July 30 members of the Gilmanton Historical Society spent an evening exploring the Museum's collection.

Light up Night here in Alton brought revelers to the Museum to view the Museum's "Windows on Christmas" exhibit and to share a cup of cider as we wished each other Happy Holidays.

The Harold S. Gilman Committee wishes to thank the volunteers who gave generously of their time and talent in addition to the Trustees of the Trust Fund for their support. We are grateful for all our many friends and hope the circle will continue to grow.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Currier, Chairman  
Christine Hughes, Secretary  
Patricia Rogers, Member  
Ellamarie Carr, Member  
Joanne Corbett, Member